

CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

1 FEBRUARY 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Dodger Stadium COVID-19 Vaccination Site Temporarily Shut Down After Protesters Gather at Entrance

(U) The Dodger Stadium mass COVID-19 vaccination site was temporarily shut down Saturday afternoon when about 50 protesters gathered at the entrance, frustrating hundreds of motorists who had been waiting in line for hours. The Los Angeles Fire Department closed the entrance to the stadium, one of the largest vaccination sites in the country, for about an hour starting just before 2 p.m. as a precaution, officials said. Several Los Angeles Police Department officers also responded to the scene; a spokeswoman for the department said no arrests were made.

SOURCE: 30 January 2021, LA Times

(U) Oakland - Oakland International Airport Terminal Temporarily Shut Down Due to Bomb Threat

(U) Part of the Oakland International Airport was shut down on Sunday from about noon to 2:45 p.m. due to a bomb threat, according to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. Officials said that there was an irate passenger on a Volaris flight to Mexico who was upset with the airline because of delays to his flight. He then told the ticket agent he had a bomb in his bag. The airline immediately reported the incident to the Alameda County Sheriff's Deputies who patrol the airport. Terminal one was evacuated, while terminal two remained operational, and the passenger was arrested.

SOURCE: 31 January 2021, KCBS Radio

(U) Sacramento – Several Sacramento Residents Charged in Illegal Drug Trafficking Operation

(U) Several Sacramento residents have been arrested in connection with a drug trafficking organization with ties to Mexico. A federal grand jury returned an 11-count indictment Thursday against seven Sacramento residents, one Manteca resident, and one Nevada resident. All nine suspects are charged with conspiracy to distribute fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine.

SOURCE: 29 January 2021, CBS13

(U) Victorville – California Gym Owner Charged in Capitol Riots

(U) Jacob Lewis, 37, a Victorville gym owner who became a local face of an anti-COVID-19 restriction movement, is facing felony charges for allegedly storming the US Capitol in the deadly attempted insurrection last month. Federal investigators said in a recent criminal complaint that video showed that Lewis, wearing a black jacket and a red Trump 2020 beanie, spent seven minutes inside the Capitol on 6 January, as hundreds of rioters violently stormed the building and disrupted Congress. Lewis was arrested on Wednesday and charged with knowingly entering a restricted space and violent and disorderly conduct on US Capitol grounds.

SOURCE: 29 January 2021, SF Gate

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – US CBP Officers at the World Trade Bridge Seize Narcotics Worth over \$1.6 Million

(U) Laredo – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Laredo Port of Entry seized

narcotics in three separate, unrelated incidents that totaled over \$1.6 million in street value. The first enforcement action occurred on Tuesday when CBP officers assigned to the cargo facility encountered a tractor hauling a shipment of toilet paper arriving from Mexico, resulting in the discovery of 43 packages containing 113.89-pounds of alleged cocaine. The second seizure occurred later that evening, when officers encountered a daily express consignment truck hauling a shipment of vinyl samples arriving from Mexico, resulting in the discovery of one package containing 17.85-pounds of alleged methamphetamine. The third narcotics interception happened on Wednesday when officers came upon a tractor manifesting a shipment of kitchen cabinets coming in from Mexico, resulting in the discovery of 20 packages containing 51.49-pounds of alleged cocaine.

SOURCE: 30 January 2021, US CBP

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia - Chinese National Charged with Conspiracy to Violate US Export Laws

(U) Washington – An indictment was unsealed this week charging Cheng Bo, also known as Joe Cheng, 45, a national of the People's Republic of China, with participating in a criminal conspiracy from 2012-2015 to violate US export laws by shipping US power amplifiers to China. According to the indictment, Cheng was a sales account manager with Avnet Asia, and he operated as a sales representative to a Hong Kong-based customer with whom Cheng had an ownership interest. Cheng submitted paperwork on behalf of the customer to purchase export-controlled US goods, including power amplifiers. Cheng caused false statements to be made to the US manufacturer of the power amplifiers that his customer would use the power amplifiers in Hong Kong when, in fact, Cheng knew that the goods would be illegally shipped from Hong Kong to China.

SOURCE: 29 January 2021, US DOJ

(U) District of Columbia – Victims Compromised by Hack Reportedly Didn't Run SolarWinds Software (U) Washington – Investigators probing a massive hack of the US government and businesses say they have found concrete evidence that the suspected Russian espionage operation went far beyond the compromise of the small software vendor publicly linked to the attack. Roughly 30-percent of the victims didn't run the SolarWinds software initially considered the main avenue of attack for the hackers, according to investigators. The revelation is fueling concern that the episode exploited vulnerabilities in business software used daily by millions. SolarWinds is now investigating the possibility that these Microsoft flaws were the attacker's first vector into its own organization.

SOURCE: 29 January 2021, Wall Street Journal

(U) Florida – Agencies Report 'No Information to Indicate Specific, Credible Threat' to Super Bowl LV (U) Tampa – Hundreds of additional police and federal officials are being activated for Super Bowl LV in Tampa, media reported Sunday. A federal report says that authorities are "concerned about terrorists' sustained interest in targeting venues with increased crowd density, such as the Super Bowl." It also states that the FBI and DHS have "no information to indicate any specific, credible threats to or associated with Super Bowl LV or related events."

SOURCE: 31 January 2021, Newsweek

(U) Minnesota – Personal Information Potentially Accessed Following Ransomware Attack

(U) Ramsey County – Ramsey County officials are releasing details of a data security incident in which hackers potentially accessed the personal information of thousands of residents, media reported Saturday. On Friday, the county announced that one of its technology services vendors, Netgain Technology LLC, was hacked on 2 December with "a malicious outside hacker" attempting to extort payment from the company in a ransomware scheme. A technical analysis found that as many as 8,700

people may have had their data accessed. All are clients of one of the county's public health programs. SOURCE: 30 January 2021, MN News

(U) New York - Proud Boys Supporter Pleads Not Guilty to Ammunition and Online Threats Charges

(U) Queens – A Proud Boys supporter who US prosecutors said kept a large weapons cache and made ominous social media posts, including toward a Democratic senator, pled not guilty to charges of being a felon in possession of ammunition and making online threats. Eduard Florea, of Queens, New York, entered his plea through a federal public defender at a Friday hearing in Brooklyn federal court. Florea was charged after FBI agents searched his Middle Village home and found more than 900-rounds of ammunition, 72 military-style combat knives, two hatchets, and two swords.

SOURCE: 29 January 2021, Reuters

(U) New York – US Law Enforcement Agents Found Suspect Had Bomb-Making Instructions

(U) Rochester – Law enforcement found "weapons and bomb-making manuals" on a thumb drive device inside a residence of a member of the Proud Boys, who was charged with participating in the security incident at the US Capitol, prosecutors said in a court filing on Friday. Dominic Pezzola, 43, was arrested in New York and is charged with destruction of government property and obstruction of an official proceeding and could face additional charges. The court filing, citing social media posts, said Pezzola was one of the first rioters to enter the Capitol.

SOURCE: 29 January 2021, Reuters

(U) North Carolina – Emotet Botnet Disrupted in International Cyber Operation

(U) Greensboro – The US Justice Department today announced its participation in a multinational operation involving actions in the US, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the UK to disrupt and take down the infrastructure of the malware and botnet known as Emotet. Additionally, officials in Lithuania, Sweden, and Ukraine assisted in this major cyber investigative action.

SOURCE: 28 January 2021, US DOJ

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) India - Group Claims Responsibility for Blast Near Israeli Embassy in New Delhi

(U) New Delhi – The terror group, Jaish-ul-Hind, believed to be affiliated with Iran, has taken responsibility for Friday's attack near the Israeli embassy in New Delhi, according to Indian media. An explosion occurred near the embassy, Israel's Foreign Ministry confirmed Friday. There were no casualties in the incident, and no damage was caused to the embassy building. According to Indian media, Jaish-ul-Hind claimed responsibility for the attack in a chat on the messenger app Telegram. The group reportedly took pride in their alleged actions.

SOURCE: 31 January 2021, Jerusalem Post

(U) Somalia – Al-Shabab Militants Attack Hotel in Mogadishu

(U) Mogadishu – Somalia security forces fought armed gunmen to end a siege at a hotel in the east African country's capital Mogadishu on Sunday that claimed the life of the country's former defense minister, according to police. Police said the country's former defense minister, Mohamed Nur Galal, is confirmed dead in the attack. Officials did not provide further details and did not confirm whether there were more casualties in the ongoing battle. A car bomb exploded at the gate of Afrik hotel and was followed by gunfire heard inside. Gunmen from the al-Qa'ida affiliate al-Shabaab gained access to the building after the car bomb explosion at the gate.

SOURCE: 31 January 2021, CNN

(U) United Kingdom – UK Research and Innovation Suffers Ransomware Attack

(U) Swindon – The UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is dealing with a ransomware incident that encrypted data and impacted two of its services, one offering information to subscribers and the platform for peer review of various parts of the agency. The UKRI announcement informs of a cyberattack that resulted in "data being encrypted by a third party." The disclosure is scarce in details about the attack or who was behind it as an investigation is underway. "We have reported the incident to the National Crime Agency, the National Cyber Security Centre and Information Commissioner's Office," UKRI informs.

SOURCE: 30 January 2021, Bleeping Computer

- (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.
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